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For Immediate Release:

**Will the Hahnes Building and Area Construction Project become
A Dream Deferred?**

Newark, NJ (October 4, 2001) – Newark’s Deputy Mayor has expressed “concern” over the Municipal Council’s refusal during yesterday’s October 3rd meeting, to untable a Resolution that would allow the New Newark Foundation Hahnes Redevelopment and Construction Project to move forward.

Alfred Faiella, who also is director of Economic and Housing Development explained the resolution would allow the Planning Board to begin procedures to determine whether or not the area is in need of redevelopment. Unfortunately, Council Member-at-Large Gayle Chaneyfield-Jenkins refused to untable the measure, which she had tabled at the last meeting, despite a presentation by the three joint venture partners on the project, he said.

“I am concerned that without Council action allowing Kravco to move ahead with the project, the joint venture partners will become discouraged and walk away from the development,” noted Faiella. “While we have not received all the numbers, we will know exactly what is proposed in terms of cost and taxes and benefits to the city before any tax abatement or contract to approve one is sent to the Municipal Council. Those numbers will be shared with all the parties in the decision making process starting with the tax abatement committee.”

The redevelopment of the Hahnes Building and the construction on the adjoining property –a \$185 million proposal – could be an integral part of the efforts to attract people to live in Newark. Faiella explained, “A unique joint venture has been put together and support for the project is needed. The City’s position is that ultimately taxes will be negotiated that will be fair to taxpayers of Newark or the project will not be built.

“However, if this project doesn’t move forward, there may be nothing to negotiate and argue about—except a lost opportunity,” he stated.

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